

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /088 W

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R 141143Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CE

SUBJ: GSL SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT ON CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION

REF: A) COLOMBO 2249; B) COLOMBO 2269

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 13, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRIEFLY REVIEWED GSL REACTION TO CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION. AS VARIOUSLY REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, JAYAKODY PRAISED PRESIDENT NIXON'S INITIATIVES IN FOREIGN POLICY, SINGLING OUT AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM VIET-NAM CONFLICT, IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH USSR AND PRC, AND U.S. APPROACH TO ARAB WORLD. MRDD NIXON, HE SAID, HAD ALSO BEEN LIBERAL IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA; JAYAKODY ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAD SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING MORE AID FROM UNITED STATES THAN ANY OTHER PRIME MINISTER IN PREVIOUS 10 YEARS. JAYAKODY NOTED THAT GREETINGS AND EXPRESSION OF GOODWILL HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD CONVEYED ASSURANCES TO GSL OF CONTINUED POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD SRI LANKA.

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2. COMMENT: JAYAKODY TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR

AUGUST 14 TO EXPLAIN THAT ONE PAPER'S REFERENCE
TO GSL "CONCERN" OVER RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT
NIXON WAS OT ACCURATE CITATION OF WHAT HE,
JAYAKODY, HAD ACTUALLY SAID. NONETHELESS, IT IS
OUR GUESS THAT SUCH DISQUIRE DID PREVAIL FOR A
TIME BUT THAT IT IS BEING ALLAYED BY REITEATION
IN WASHINGTON AND IN COLOMBO OF CONTINUITY IN U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY. WE INTEND TO KEEP
STRESSING THIS POINT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB02288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740223-0559
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740849/aaaabpvl.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) COLOMBO 2249; B) COLOMBO 2269
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSL SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT ON CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION
TAGS: PFOR, US, CE, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005